

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: Gas Connectors

DATE: August 8, 1996

PLACE: Consumer Product Safety Commission
Room 410A

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Lawrence L. Hershman
Special Assistant to the Chairman

MEETING REQUESTED BY: CPSC Staff

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (CPSC) REPRESENTATIVES:

Ronald L. Medford, Assistant Executive Director, Office
of Hazard Identification & Reduction
Lawrence L. Hershman, Special Assistant to the Chairman
Donald Switzer, Directorate for Engineering Sciences
Richard Frost, Deputy Director, Office of Information
and Public Affairs
Ronald Jordan, Directorate for Engineering Sciences
Kate Sedney, Division of Human Factors, Directorate for
Engineering Sciences
Robert Franklin, Directorate for Economic Analysis
Ronald Monticone, Directorate for Epidemiology and
Health Sciences

INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES:

William H. Butterbaugh, Director, Regulatory Affairs,
National Propane Gas Association (NPGA)
Joseph M. Mattingly, Director of Government Affairs and
General Counsel, Gas Appliance Manufacturers
Association, Inc. (GAMA)
Wayne E. Morris, Technical Director, Regulatory
Affairs, Association of Home Appliance
Manufacturers (AHAM)
James A. Ranfone, Director, Codes, Standards and
Technical Support, American Gas Association (AGA)

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Sam Cristy, Product Safety Letter
Alex Cohen, Consumer

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

K No Mfrs/Private Labels or
Products Identified

8/13/96
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SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Mr. Hershman opened the meeting and the participants began a discussion of the pros and cons of combining safety information about gas connectors with other gas appliance related safety information. Mr. Ranfone said that AGA would be sending the multi-page and multi-topic safety brochure under discussion to its members and that each member has the option of using all or any part of it to send on to its customers. Mr. Ranfone did agree to distribute a single sheet warning exclusively on gas connectors in addition to the brochure. Mr. Butterbaugh agreed to make both types of warnings available to NPGA members. In response to a question by Mr. Cohen, the gas company representatives said that their member companies make publications available in other languages.

In a discussion of the specifics of what the warnings would say, the participants agreed to use the recently distributed warnings by People's Gas Company in the Chicago area as a starting point. The participants agreed to place greater emphasis in the notices on warning consumers not to move their appliances to inspect their gas connectors, but to have professionals perform the inspections. The participants also agreed that the term "flexible" is misleading and potentially dangerous and should not be used to describe the connectors in safety information. CPSC staff said that they would solicit Commission approval for AGA to place the CPSC logo on AGA's safety brochure.

Mr. Medford suggested that a video news release would be an effective and affordable method to increase consumer awareness of a safety program. Mr. Frost explained the production, distribution and costs of video news releases. Mr. Mattingly said that he would discuss financial contributions to finance a video news release with GAMA-member gas connector manufacturers.

Mr. Medford said that it is important to CPSC to get feedback on the progress and success of the safety program. Mr. Ranfone said that AGA would survey its members on their distribution of the safety information.

The CPSC participants agreed to prepare drafts of the safety warnings for review by the industry representatives. The CPSC participants also will draft a CPSC press release, and an outline of a video news release. After a discussion of specific language for the draft notices, the meeting was adjourned.